

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hisashi Umeda  
 Serial No.: 10/798,102  
 Conf. No.: 5914  
 Filed: 03/11/2004  
 For: MAGNETIC RECORDING  
 MEDIUM, MAGNETIC  
 STORAGE APPARATUS  
 AND RECORDING  
 METHOD  
 Art Unit: 1773

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

12/22/2004  
 Date

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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| Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce<br>(Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office |  | Attorney Docket No.: 0941.70006 | Serial No.: 10/798,102 |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION<br>(Use several sheets if necessary)                 |  | Applicant: Hisashi Umeda        |                        |
|  |  | Filing Date: 3-11-04            | Group: 1773            |



## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Date          | Name             | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
|                   | 2003/108774     | Jun. 12, 2003 | Umezawa et al.   |       |          |                            |
|                   | 2003/059648     | Mar. 27, 2003 | Honda et al.     |       |          |                            |
|                   | 2002/064689     | May 30, 2002  | Matsunuma et al. |       |          |                            |
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|                   | 2003/104253     | Jun. 5, 2003  | Osawa et al.     |       |          |                            |
|                   | 2003/017369     | Jan. 23, 2003 | Kanbe et al.     |       |          |                            |
|                   | 6,567,236       | May 15, 2003  | Margulies et al. |       |          |                            |
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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  | Document Number | Date          | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation |    |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |                 |               |         |       |          | Yes         | No |
|  | 1 302 931       | Apr. 16, 2003 | Europe  |       |          | X           |    |
|  |                 |               |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |                 |               |         |       |          |             |    |
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|  |                 |               |         |       |          |             |    |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| Examiner | Date Considered |
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\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.